

Second-half rally puts Wycombe in third round

Sports Mail Special Report

SUTTON UTD ... 1 : WYCOMBE WANDS 4

AFTER an uncertain start and after being under strong pressure from the hard-hitting United forwards, Wycombe Wanderers rallied remarkably in the second half of their Amateur Cup second round match at Sutton, scoring four goals in the last 12 minutes.

Sutton Utd.: Watkins; Gamblin, Basham; Sunnucks, Vince, Clack; Harding, Heasman, Acland, Hermitage, Goodall.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; James, Blair, Bates, Worley, Horseman.

Referee: J. Wright.

Sutton looked dangerous in early attacks and Wycombe spoilt a number of promising midfield moves by holding the ball too long.

The Sutton right winger broke through after a pass from Clack, but missed a good chance, heading high over the bar. A little later he missed another chance when, well placed, he mis-kicked.

Passing more accurately, the speedy home forwards had more of the ball; and quick-tackling half-backs prevented the Wycombe forwards finding any real cohesion in attack.

But Sutton escaped once when Gamblin blocked a powerful shot from James, who had moved out to the left wing.

Sutton missed another excellent chance when left winger Goodall shot wide from a pass by Harding. Then Acland headed high over the bar from a corner kick.

POOR SUPPORT

Overworked in defence, the Wycombe halves provided poor support for the forwards and Bates, tirelessly chasing the loose ball, was often left to forge a lone trail down the centre.

Skipper Len Worley switched to the right wing and James moved into the middle in an effort to achieve more thrust. Wycombe came more into the picture as a result and one series of furious attacks was only foiled by Sutton, packing their goal.

Wycombe had a narrow escape, however, when Goodall hit the underside of the cross-bar. Centre-forward Acland bundled the ball into the goal but handled in the process.

Half-time: Sutton United 0. Wycombe Wanderers 0.

Sutton were again the more aggressive side at the start of the second half and Brown saved well from Acland and Hermitage. But their marksmanship was often hurried and over-eager.

Most of the play was in the Wycombe half and the Wanderers were limited to sporadic breakaways in which Bates and James, the only two who looked like scoring, lacked sufficient support to make much impression on an uncompromising home defence.

There was one exciting moment for the big following of Wycombe supporters when James broke through on his own. But goalkeeper Watkins ran out to save at his feet.

Midway through the half, however, Wycombe rallied. Worley became more effective on the right wing and one of his runs produced Wycombe's first goal, only 12 minutes from the end. JAMES ran on to take a pass well ahead and went on to beat the goalkeeper in spite of the close challenge of the Sutton backs.

Two minutes later WORLEY surprised both the Sutton defence and his own colleagues by dribbling into the middle and adding a second with a swift, low drive.

Within another three minutes a Sutton defender was adjudged to have handled when James almost bundled the ball in during another hectic Wycombe attack. BATES scored from the penalty.

Sutton hit back strongly and a few minutes from time VINCE scored with a clever cross-shot from the right.

Again Wycombe swept back and just before the end BATES added a simple fourth goal after he and James had walked through the bewildered home defence.

RESULT:

SUTTON UNITED 1
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 4

WYCOMBE CUP HEROES HIT 4

Sutton Utd. 1 Wycombe W. 4

WYCOMBE WANDERERS reached the third round of the F.A. Amateur Cup in a dramatic goal slam when all five goals were scored in the last 13 minutes.

Wycombe gave the impression that if allowed to play at their own leisurely pace they could produce football both attractive and effective. But Sutton, faster on the ball and into the tackle, gave them no chance to settle until those devastating last few minutes.

Finding that their plans to use amateur internationals Bates and Worley in a double centre-forward game did not work, Wycombe reverted to their usual line-up, and it was crafty Worley, playing deep on the right wing, and combining well with Blair, who did most of the damage.

With 13 minutes left the score sheet was still blank. Then in quick succession James and Worley scored for Wycombe with shots that gave Watkins no chance.

Bates added another from the penalty spot, and although centre-half Vince replied for Sutton, Bates added Wycombe's fourth.

Welsh amateur international centre-half John Fisher was outstanding in a tight Wycombe defence.